

THE DISSOLUTION OF THE FELLOWSHIP

of venerable memory, and bear witness that all the things recounted in it are most true."¹

With Catherine's death, all thoughts of reformation seem to have died out of Urban's heart, and he began to tread the path upon which the Popes of the Renaissance were to follow. He had already, in April, 1380, formally deprived Queen Giovanna of her kingdom and all her fiefs, and released her subjects from their allegiance under pain of excommunication. To defend herself from him and her Hungarian cousins, Giovanna, with the approval of Clement, adopted Louis of Anjou as her heir, and appealed for French protection. In the autumn, Charles of Durazzo entered Italy with a Hungarian army, and, at the beginning of June, 1381, was crowned in Rome by Urban, as King of Naples and Jerusalem, under the title of Charles III. The price of the ceremony was the confirmation of the Neapolitan fiefs that Urban had granted to his own infamous nephew, Francesco Prignano, which included the principality of Capua, the duchy of Amalfi, and the counties of Caserta and Fondi—a transaction in which the exiled Florentine, Lapo da Castiglione, acted as Charles's legal adviser. Giovanna's despairing appeal to Louis of Anjou, practically offering him immediate possession of the kingdom, came at an inauspicious moment—the Duke being fully occupied in the regency of France for the young King, Charles VI. Charles advanced upon Naples, and, on July 16, occupied the city, the Queen taking refuge in the Castello Nuovo. Her husband Otho made a valiant attempt to break through and rescue her, but was defeated and taken prisoner; and, on September 2, Giovanna surrendered. She was imprisoned in Castello dell'Ovo, while the populace shouted for Urban, whose legate, Cardinal Gentile di Sangro, proceeded

¹ Letter of April 13, 1413, prefixed to his *Contestatio*, pp. 427-429 in the Caianatenae MS., ff. 157^v-158 in the MS. at Siena. Cf. Placido M. Lugano, *op. cit.*, p. 163». An earlier letter of Francesco's, written from the Olivetan convent of S. Girolamo di Quarto outside Genoa (which Alfonso da Vadtterra had founded and where he was buried in 1388), to Neri di Landoccio, is in *Lettere del dtscefoB*, 40.